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## Letter dated 3 October 2001 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the presidential statement dated 3 May 2001 (S/PRST/2001/13), by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the Expert Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a final period of three months, and requested that the Panel submit, through me, an addendum to its final report.

The Panel resumed its activities in late July under the chairmanship of Ambassador Mahmoud Kassem. Recently, Ambassador Kassem notified the Secretariat that, while the Panel would need additional time to complete its work, it would be able to submit its report to the Security Council by mid-November 2001.

Accordingly, I should like to recommend that the Panel's mandate be extended until 30 November 2001. Such an extension would also enable Ambassador Kassem to present his report to the Council and to finalize the Panel's work thereafter.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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